

MACAULAY'S USE OF AUTHORITIES

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other hand, there is an occasional reference to the State Paper Office, or to some paper copied from an original in that repository. The explanation of this is very simple. The modern Record Office with all its facilities for research did not exist in Macaulay's time, The building of the present Record Office in Fetter Lane began only in 1851 and it was not till 1859 that the documents now collected there were brought under one roof. Before that date, the records proper—mainly mediaeval or Tudor documents—were in a number of temporary repositories under different authorities. Not till 1837 was the act passed by which they were all placed under the custody of the Master of the Rolls. The more modern documents roughly described as state papers, running from the time of Queen Elizabeth to the eighteenth century and later, were collected in the office known as the State Paper Office, which had been established by Elizabeth in 1578. When Macaulay wrote, they were housed in a building near St. James's Park. In 1854 this separate office was abolished. The papers it contained were placed under the jurisdiction of the Master of the Rolls and transferred in 1862 to the Record Office, thus completing the great collection now accessible in Fetter Lane.

Macaulay's position would have secured

him, or did
secure him, free access to the documents in
the State
Paper Office. But there is no evidence that he
made much
investigation of them. Generally he seems to
have con-
tented himself with using the transcripts of
papers there
which Mackintosh had collected, or the
versions of them
published in printed books. The modern
calendars which
do so much to facilitate research did not exist.
The first
volume of the Calendars of Domestic State
Papers was
published in 1856. As yet no calendar of the
documents